ABSTRACT

The picture coding method according to the present invention is a picture coding method for coding a picture on a block-by-block basis through orthogonal transformation and quantization, and coding a quantization matrix that is used to derive quantization steps for frequencies of orthogonal transformation coefficients, the method comprising: calculating a difference value between each of frequency components included in the quantization matrix and a predetermined value corresponding to said each of the frequency components; and coding the difference value into a variable length code, wherein a code length of the variable length code is shorter as the difference value is smaller, or equal to a code length of a neighboring difference value of said difference value.